

the gentleman from Washington has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend and colleague from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding.

I was listening to my good friend and colleague from New York who just spoke about the debt that we built up under the Republican leadership; I think he mentioned the number \$3 trillion. And I don't think that's admirable on our part.

I want to say that I think most Members know that I'm a big fan of country music and one of my favorite singers is Randy Travis, and one of my favorite songs is "Diggin' Up Bones." The American people don't want us to be digging up bones and saying, well, you did this, or he hit me back first. I think what our colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to remember, the fact that we are now in the minority is not so much about the miscreant action of a couple of Members on our side who violated the public trust or the difficult slog in Iraq. That slog has been difficult. But more importantly, it's this debt that has been built up, this fiscal irresponsibility.

This Republican Study Committee, the majority of the minority, and I'm proud of my Members on this side of the aisle that said enough is enough, the American people want us to stop spending their money.

I support this amendment, a 1 percent cut across the board. It's not specifically so much about this particular appropriations bill, but it's about all of them. We have got to stop this nonsense spending once and for all. This is the time to draw the line in the sand, just like our colleague from Colorado, the esteemed Representative Mr. Hefley, did every year, 1 percent across-the-board cut. I'm embarrassed that I didn't vote for all those amendments, but I strongly support my colleague from Georgia in this amendment.

And as my other colleague from Georgia said, to spend just \$1 billion, you could spend \$1 a second for the next 31 years to get to this expenditure of \$1 billion.

Support the amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, a member of the subcommittee (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman from the subcommittee for yielding me the time.

I'm interested by the amendment. Now, as the gentleman from Georgia has explained it, I, of course, had thought that without instruction the amendment would end up being an across-the-board amendment. But what in fact has happened here is that the gentleman's amendment, without instruction, allows the executive to decide exactly where those \$276 million would be cut.

Now, I would consider that a total abrogation of our responsibility for budgeting in article I of the Constitution, where we have taken an oath of office to the Constitution, and where our responsibility is to define where the budgeting for the country will go.

So I think that's, in fact, a far worse thing than it would be if it were a strictly across-the-board kind of budget, senseless as though that would be.

I often find it necessary to be a little bit repetitious. I just want to go back to something that I had pointed out, and that is, that at the end of the Carter administration, when President Carter left office in January of 1981, the debt of this country was \$1 trillion. Twelve years later, after 8 years of President Reagan and four of President Bush, father, the debt of the country was \$4.3 trillion, more than four times as large in 12 years, but \$3.3 trillion increase. In 8 years of President Clinton, the debt was increased by an additional \$1.2 trillion to \$5.5 trillion.

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After now 6 years of Bush, the son, as President, the debt, at present, is at \$8.8 trillion, an additional \$3½ trillion in just 6 years.

Now, I don't know, the gentlemen and women on the other side of the aisle were in the majority through all of those 6 years in this House of Representatives which starts all the budgets. They can't claim that they were out to lunch at all because, in fact, they were here voting for those budgets that increased the debt by \$3½ trillion over the last 6 years. So if there is fiscal responsibility, it certainly cannot be claimed either then or now for what is now the minority in this House of Representatives.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the Chair of the Republican Study Committee and the champion of fiscal responsibility.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank him for his leadership in the Republican Study Committee and his leadership for fiscal sanity in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I regret that the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee is no longer on the floor. I have listened to his comments carefully. He alluded to some of the debate being part fiction. Well, I must admit, when I have my Democrat colleagues come to the floor and lecture on the subject of fiscal responsibility, I do feel like we are in the midst of a chapter in "Alice in Wonderland." We hear our friends from this side of the aisle lecture us, well, it was you Republicans who voted for these budgets that increased spending.

Well, Mr. Chairman, again, you are entitled to your own opinions. You are not entitled to your own facts. Look at the record. Every time that the Republicans offered a budget that spent more

money, Democrats offered a budget that spent even more. It spent even more. Look at the record. You have Democrats come to the floor, Mr. Chairman, and say, well, the Republicans are responsible for this very expensive prescription drug benefit program.

Well, they are right. But guess what? Their program cost even more. It cost even more. Then they say, well, under your watch, the national debt went up by \$3 trillion. Well, the unfunded obligations, the debt that will be imposed on our children and grandchildren for their refusal to do anything about out-of-control entitlement spending, is \$50 trillion. \$50 trillion.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy to take responsibility for \$3 trillion when my friends from the other side of the aisle will take responsibility for the \$50 trillion. They had nothing, absolutely nothing, stone-cold silence on entitlement spending in their budget, something that the Comptroller General says we are on the verge of being the first generation of American history to leave the next generation with a lower standard of living. When will the madness stop?

Then I hear about these devastating cuts. How about the devastating cuts to the American family when their largest tax increase in American history is imposed? How about those devastating cuts? Then we hear about this meat-cleaver approach of an across-the-board cut. Well, my friends from the other side of the aisle didn't have any problem with a meat-cleaver cut of the American family budget of \$3,000 per American family. How about that meat-cleaver cut?

What I am essentially hearing here, and I know much good work has been done on this bill, but I am hearing "NIMBY." Sure, maybe there is a big entitlement crisis here, but "not in my backyard." It needs to begin today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think people should understand that the views that are being enunciated here are not the views of the bipartisan appropriations subcommittee that I serve on. Mr. TIAHRT and Mr. DICKS have worked very hard to produce a bill that I think is an excellent product. It really answers the question these gentlemen have raised earlier: What is this bill about? Because what they are talking about cutting, folks, is cutting to the heart of what the American people love.

Let's talk a little bit about that. They want to talk about 1 percent, 4 percent and all of that. But they don't want to talk about what they are really cutting.

Now, the National Wildlife Refuges, the American people love. This administration is talking about closing down 200 National Wildlife Refuges because we don't have any personnel in them. So you want to continue that. The speakers here today want to continue